

# TRAFFIC COORDINATING COMMITTEE MINUTES



January 27, 2022

12:00pm

Virtual Meeting

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**Call to Order:** 12:03pm

**10. Roll Call**

Committee Members Present:

Peggy Penland, Chair  
Mike Montero  
Jeffrey Morejohn  
Lewis Osborn

Committee Members Absent:

Susan Tooley, excused

City Staff Present:

Peter Mackprang, Public Works Engineering  
Debra Royal, Public Works Engineering  
Tanner Farrington, Fire Department

Guests:

Timothy Ray of Medford  
Barbara Ray of Medford  
Trace Fowler of Medford

**20. Approval of Minutes of the December 9, 2021 Meeting**

There being no additions or corrections, the Minutes of the December 9, 2021 meeting were approve as presented.

**30. Oral Requests and Communications**

None.

**40. Continued Committee Business**

None.

**50. Agenda Items**

50.1 Willowdale Avenue – Parking Restrictions

Peter Mackprang provided the Staff Report discussing the request to place fire lane parking restrictions on Willowdale Avenue on the north side of the street.

Resident Timothy Ray asked the Committee why his short block needs restrictions when every street in the subdivision is the same size and has parking on both sides. He offered the solution that to get to the self-storage units, fire vehicles should use the main entrance on Cheshire as it is 10 feet wider than the other streets. He shared that his nephew, who is a fireman in Roseburg, said that all fire departments have alternate routes. Mr. Ray added he believes it does not make sense that fire lane parking is needed on Willowdale. He believes if the logic being used were applied to all the streets, the entire subdivision would have to have the same type of fire lane parking.

Mrs. Barbara Ray asked who requested the petition for the street to be vacated.

Chair Penland said the requestor was Mr. Sol Robinson.

Mrs. Ray continued saying that this change would establish a commercial egress in a residential neighborhood. They are already having problems with 18-wheelers that come to the self-storage units. There are already two other entrances into the storage facility that can handle large trucks. There is already an entire street two houses away that has been vacated. There are already three accesses for the trucks. She has four vehicles that they would have to park on the already overloaded Kingswood Street. Backing up onto Kingwood is already visually difficult for her and for those coming out of the self-storage units. This change will make it more difficult to see. She offered that instead of rectifying the problem, this move will exacerbate the problem. If the concern is traffic and room for a fire truck and there is a real emergency, the added vehicles on both sides of Kingswood and people trying to leave the neighborhood will cause gridlock. Mrs. Ray also asked who this move is trying to protect, the storage units made of cement and tin or the homes. She continued that if before construction, the city approved the storage business and the neighborhood, the accesses would have been determined sufficient at that time. Therefore, the streets were never intended for these

types of large vehicles. All large trucks should be using their entrances, not the entrances off of Rossanley and not through the neighborhood.

Ms. Trace Fowler offered that the large trucks that use this entrance ride up onto the sidewalk and run over her plants. She installed a post to prevent this. She believes that she will not be able to access her gate if the Committee agrees to the parking restrictions. She fears she will have no public parking whatsoever on a public road.

Committee Member Mike Montero clarified that when the subdivision was approved, all of what is being discussed was taken into consideration. He also understands the residents' concerns about the narrow streets and agrees it is an issue. He shared that what happens frequently in the built environment is that these issues develop after the fact. Half of the issues that come before the Committee deal with parking. Regarding Mrs. Ray's question as to whom the Fire Department is trying to protect with this move, Mr. Montero offered that most of the hazard exposure comes from the contents of structures when they burn. He explained that the Committee must rely on the testimony of local fire officials. If they see this as a problem, the Committee will give that testimony considerable weight. Committee Member Lewis Osborn, agreed with Mr. Montero. Mrs. Ray asked if it was necessary to take an entire street. Chair Penland said that the Committee can recommend whatever they believe is appropriate.

Mr. Montero asked for clarification that the proposal was to restrict parking on the north side of Willowdale that provides access to the self-storage units. Chair Penland agreed and said if the Committee can identify a better solution that would be a second option. Mr. Montero asked for confirmation that restricting parking on the north side of Willowdale on the short section was the position of the Medford Fire Department. Chair Penland said that was correct.

MOTION: The Committee recommends the restriction of parking on only the north side of Willowdale on the section of street between Kingswood and the self-storage unit.

Moved by: Mike Montero                      Seconded by: Lewis Osborn

Roll Call: The Motion was agreed to unanimously.

Mrs. Ray asked if there was an appeals process. Chair Penland said that there was and that contacting her City Councilmember is where she should start.

Deputy Fire Marshal Tanner Farrington offered that he had been in coordination with Public Works staff and that the north side option was the best. He added that there is another unimproved access point similar to the north end for RV parking. Looking on Google Maps, parking restrictions near the corner are important. He said that parking on the south side will still restrict turning for the fire trucks. The north end of Willowdale and the north end of that small access at the very north end of the property, both of those need to be parking restricted.

Mr. Montero agreed with Mr. Farrington and asked if the fire, life, and safety issue with regard to new Greenfield Subdivision had been communicated to Planning and Public Works. Mr. Farrington said that Fire is given the opportunity at land development meetings to comment. They typically see that the width of proposed streets is less than 26 feet, parking on one side can be restricted. Why that wasn't done on this project, he did not know. The residents' points are valid and with cars on both sides it is harder to get through.

From a development perspective, Mr. Montero said when most people purchase a home it is implied there is street parking. The logical solution is to restrict on-street parking even if it is only on one side. That comes with a lot of complaints, so this is an important policy discussion. Mr. Farrington said discussions are taking place, and lessons learned from the Alameda Fire were being considered, specifically how to get in while others are getting out. There needs to be a balance between builders using less pavement/less cost vs. fire safety. Mr. Montero added comprehensive discussions need to take place that address things like state land use policies and regional problem-solving that require minimum densities.

**60.     Committee Member Remarks**

None.

**70.     Staff Reports**

70.1 Making an Impact December 2021

**80.     **Adjournment:** 12:29pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Royal, Public Works Engineering